

may prove to be too far behind the age to profit at present by the noble example of the patriotic system of free Schools, which are regarded as a matter of course and an essential attribute of civilization in their Cities and Towns, where the whole population feel guilty and disgraced by the neglected ignorance of any one class, and where the means of a good English Education are regarded as the birth-right of every citizen.

We cordially reciprocate the courteous sentiments and friendly feelings of our able American fellow-labourer in the work of public instruction ; and we hope the only future rivalry between the two countries will be that of educating, elevating, and promoting the happiness of all classes of their respective populations, and blessing mankind by the example of their virtues and the exercise of their charities.

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*Free School System in the State of Massachusetts.*—Governor BRIGGS concludes his Message, at the opening of the State Legislature in January last, in the following emphatic words :—

“ Before a Chief Magistrate of Massachusetts, standing in this high place, and addressing the assembled Representatives of the people, will propose to withdraw from the children of the poor the means of a Common School education, Plymouth

Rock and Bunker Hill must sink into the ocean, and the names of those illustrious and good men who laid deep in our hard soil the foundation of *Free Schools*, must be blotted from the records of history.”

We believe the citizens of Boston and the inhabitants of Massachusetts are not “*paupers* ;” but that they will advantageously compare with the opponents of *Free Schools* in other cities and countries. Whether the testimony of Governor Briggs and the experience and civilization of New-England, or the assertion of persons who have never examined the subject, are entitled to most respect on this subject, any reader can decide for himself. The principles of righteousness, the spirit of patriotism, and the lessons of experience, will ultimately prevail ; and the poor man, and the labouring man will not always be neglected and despised. Notwithstanding what has occurred, we are credibly informed that the attendance of children at the Common Schools in the City of Toronto is one-third larger than it was last year. In the Town of Belleville, we have been informed, the number of children attending the Common Schools last year was 170 ; this year it exceeds 350. Facts are a better test of a system than declamation.

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The unavoidable absence of the principal Editor has delayed the publication of this number of the *Journal* for a few days.